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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The Wickedest Spot on Earth.

A New York preacher last Sunday devoted his sermon to "the wickedest block in the world." It is on Stanton street, in that city, and consists of seven houses, containing 1,000 fami-

Good and Plenty.

Embezzlements by bank cashiers and clerks are not frequently reported in England, but when one of them does get his hand into the deposits he gets it in deep. The Bank of Liverpool's bookkeeper, for example, has abscouded with \$550,000.

Inique Feature of the Jordan.

The Jordan, during its course, falls over 1,200 feet. At no point is it nav-Igable, even by a small craft, to any considerable distance, and presents the unique spectacle of a river which has never been navigated flowing into a sea which contains not one living

Not an Unreasonable Request.

Two brothers in Harrisburg, Pass condemned to death for murd r, bave been sentenced to be hanged on the same day. They demur. They say they do not mind being hanged, but ask that it be done on different days. This certainly seems to be a reasonable request.

A Modern Wonder.

An English nobleman of high rank has just been brought into notice by paying off the larger portion of his lebts. And he did not marry an American heiress either, nor go on the stage. So it is small wonder that for the moment he is something of a social curiosity.

Admiral Schley is in more dung r stemious habits in enting and drinklow, he will, if he accepts half the invitations to banquets that are beof dyspepsia before a year has

In the latest figure of the census appears that there are in this In Europe the difference is the other way. It would seem, therefore, that the disposition in international marriages should be modified. Instead of Europeans seeking American brides due regard for census statistics American husbands.

Why He Dreads Cancer.

The German emperor is reported to have made an order for a commission of experts to be appointed with a view to the most radical and exhaustive investigation of cancer that can possibly be made. The deaths of his father, mother and uncle from this cause have naturally given this scourge a terrible interest in his eyes, which has as naturally been ared by those allied in England.

Twin Vehicles of Joy.

aple sirup has long been intimatessociated in the American mind the American stomach as well buckwheat cakes. And recent mpts to push the sale of this charine commodity in Australia and Germany have failed, apparently cause the characteristic Yankee pancake is unknown in those countries. An opening is thus revealed for a twofold missionary enterprise.

The muster rolls of the union armies of the rebellion show that out of 2,000,000, in round numbers, threefourths were native Americans; Germany furnished 175,000; Ireland, 150,-000; England, 50,000; British America. 50,000, and other countries, 75,000; in all about 500,000 foreigners; 48 per cent of our soldiers were farmers, 27 per cent. mechanics, 16 per cent. luborers, 5 per cent, professional men and 4 per cent. were of miscellancous vocations. The average height of our soldiers was 5 feet 814 luches.

How times are changed in the mat-ter of men's fortunes! The other night a dinner was given by the New York Chamber of Commerce, attended by probably the largest aggregation of plutocrats the world knows. Thirty-three of those present, according to one estimate, own an aggreaverage of something over \$42,000,000 aplece. Of course much allowance must be made for the fat round figure in which it is customary nowadays to

The democrats are congratulating themselves that theirs is the only party that held its own in Ohio this There is a striking similarity between the democratic vote for governor in two years. In 1899 it was 888,176, while in 1901 it was 368,525.

Sends His First Annual Message to the Senate and House of Representatives.

RESOMMENDATIONS ON IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

Eulogizes the Late President McKinley and Advocates Stern Measures for Anarchists Proposes Trust Legislation Along the Lines of Publicity - Favors Government Construction of Irrigation Works-Urges Construction of Isthmian Canal and Laying of Pacific Cable-Asks Legislation for the Colonies and Reciprocity for Cuba-Would Exclude Chinese.

The following is a comprehensive summary of possition in Rosevell's message to congress:

The president begins his first annual communication with an official announcement of the death of the late President Mckinley, and a culcay of his former chief in which he says:

The shock in the most sareed and intimate of home relations. There could be no personal harred of him, for he never action in the most sareed and intimate of home relations. There could be no personal harred of him, for he never action in any how knew him in public life he united the tender affections and home virtues which are all important in the most sareed and intimate of home relations. There could be no personal harred of him, for he never action who knew him in public of the shock, the grief of the country, are think and irresponsible power. But for this assassination even this base apology cannot be turged:

The shock, the grief of the country, are third again the late of the shock, the grief of the country, are third and irresponsible power. But for this assassination even this base apology cannot be turged:

The shock, the grief of the country, are third and irresponsible power. But for this assassination even this base apology cannot be turged:

The shock, the grief of the country, are third and irresponsible power. But for this assassination even this base apology cannot be turged:

The shock, the grief of the country, are thirt in the minds of all who saw the dark days while the president yet haversal between life and death. At last the light was the fired again to the president yet haversal between life and death, at last the light was the fired and of unfailering trust in the will of the Most High. Such a death of the Most High.

The president sees cause for congratuinton for the nation in the business conditions of the present, but sees in the "tremensous and rightly complex industrial
development which went on with ever accelerated rapidly along the latter half
of the infectential annuty a serious social
problem for the present and future. He
does not believe that the old laws and old
customs are sufficient to regulate the accumulation and distribution of wealth of
the present time. He does not attribute
the creation of great corporate fortunes
to the existence of a protective tariff, "nor
to any other governmental action, but to
natural causes in the business world, opcraining in other countries as they operate
in our own." In this connection he says:

"The process has aroused much antagorism, a great part of which is wholly
without warrant. It is not true that as
the rich have snown richer the poor have
grown poorer. On the contrary, never before has the average man, the wageworker, the farmer, the small trader,
head as well off as in this country and
at the present time. There have been
abuses connected with the accumulation
of wealth, yet it rumains true that a fortime accumulated in legitimate business
can be accumulated by the person specially benefited only on condition of conferring immanse incidental benefits upon
others. Successful enterprize of the type
which benefits all mankind can only exitin as the men and corporations "who
have built up our commerce and driven our
great prizes as the rewards of success."

Fut while he realizes existing conditions, he emphasizes the fact that congress
in providing remedies must act with caution, as the men and corporations "who
have built up our commerce and driven our
great good to our people, and without
them the material development of which
we are so Justly proud could never have
taken place. Moreover, we should recognize the immense importance to this material development of leaving as unhampered as is compatible with the public
good the strong a

with all on suchas concerning commuters, latter and the merchant matine.

Would Exclude the Chinese.

The messane concerning recommendation for the reenactment at the of the present Chinese exclusion act, in which connection he says:

"Wages are higher to-day in the United States than ever before in our history and far higher than in any other country. The standard of living is also higher than ever before. Every effort of existator and administrator should be bent to secure the permanency of this condition of things and its improvement wherever possible. Not only must our labor be protected by the tariff, but it should also be protected by the tariff, but it should also be protected so far as it is possible troin the presence in this country of any laborers brought over by contract or of those who, coming freely, yet represent a standard of living so depressed that they can undersell our men in the labor market and drag them to a lower level. I regard it as necessary, with this end in view, to reenact immediately the law excluding Chinese laborers and to strengthen it wherever necessary in order to make its enforcement entirely effective."

"The national government should demand the highest quality of service from its employes and in return it should be a good employer. If possible, legislation should be passed in connection with the interstate commerce law which will render effective the efforts of different states to do away with the competition of convict contract labor in the open labor market. So far as practicable under the conditions of government work provision should be made to render the enforcement of the eight-hour law easy and certain. In all industries carried on directly or indirectly for the United States government, women and children should provide in its contracts that all work should be done under fair conditions and, in addition to setting a high standard, should be been under fair conditions and, in addition to setting a high standard, should be been under fair conditions and indirect aid

moted by the course thus required by our own interests.

The natural line of development for a policy of reciprocity will be in connection with those of our productions which no longer require all of the support once needed to establish them upon a sound basis, and with those others where either because of ratural or of economic causes we are beyond the reach of successful composition.

If ask the attention of the senate to the reciprocity treaties laid before it by my predecessor.

The Merchant Marine.

The Merchant Marine.

The president pronounces our merchant marine "discreditable to us as a nation and insignificant to that of other nations which we everion in other forms of business, and says we "sheuld not longer submit to corditions under which only a trifling portion of our great commerce is carried in our own ships. Of this he says:

"To remedy this state of things would not merely serve to build up our shipping interests, but it would nise result in benefit to all who are interested in the permanent establishment of a wider market for American products and would provide an auxiliary force for the ravy. Ships work for their own centries just as railroads work for their terminal points. Shipping lines, it established to the principal countries with which we have dealings, would be of relitical as well as commercial benefit. From every standpoint it is unwise for the United States to continue to rely upon the ships of competing nations for the distribution of our goods. It should be made advantageous to carry American goods in American built ships."

His recommendation on this subject is only that "our government should take such action as will remedy these inequalities. That American merchant marine should be restored to the ocean."

Finances.

Under this heading the president recommends such ligislation as will better safeguard against the dereigning influences of commercial cripus and financial panics and such as will make the currency of the country made responsive to the demands of domestic frace and commerce.

He points out the fact that he receipts from duties on that there will be the possibility of a deficit.

"But after providing against any such continuency against spains and internal taxes exceed the explactitions of the government, but counsels against reducing the revolutes so that there will be the possibility of a deficit.

"But after providing against any such continuency against spains and such adopted which will bring the revolutes more nearly within the limit of our actual needs."

He

Irrigation.

have incorporated in their constitutions the doctrine of perpetual state ownership of water."

The Colonies.

Considerable attention is given the colonies, and especially the Philippines. This section of the message begins by citing the needs of Hawaii and Porto Rico, of which he says:

"In Hawaii our aim must be to develop the territory on the traditional American lines. We do not wish a region of large estates tilled by cheap labor. We wish a healthy American community of men who themselves till the farms they own. All our legislation for the islands should be shaped with this end in view. The well being of the average homemaker must afford the true text of the healthy development of the islands. The land policy should as nearly as possible be modeled on our homestead system."

Of Porto Rico he says the island is thriving as never before, and is being administered efficiently and honestly. He deems no legislation necessary except that concerning the public lands of the island.

He calls attention to the fact that in Cuba the independent government of the island will soon be in control, and in the same connection urges strongly the need of reciprocal trade relations with the new nation, upon which subject he says:

"In the case of Cuba there are weighty reasons of morality and of national interest why the policy should be held to have a peculiar application, and I most carriestly ask your attention to the wisdom indeed to the vital need, of providing for a substantial reduction in the tariff duties on Cuban imports into the United States. Cuba has in her constitution affirmed what we desired that she should stand in interest yask your attention to the wisdom indeed to the vital need, of providing for a substantial reduction in the tariff duties on Cuban imports into the United States. Cuba has in her constitution affirmed what we desired that she should stand in international matters in closer and more friendly relations with us than with any other power, and we are bound by every consideration of honor and ex

them and werey encouragement be given them and werry encouragement be given to the incoming of business men of every, and.

"Not to permit this is to do a wrong to the Philippines. The franchises must be granted and the business permitted only inder regulations which will guarantee the islands against any kind of improper exploitation. But the vast natural wealth of the islands must be developed, and the capital willing to develop it must be given the opportunity. The field must be thrown open to individual enterprise, which has been the real factor in the development of every region over which our flag has flown. It is urgently necessary to enact suitable in the sealing with general transportation, mining, banking, currency, homesteads and the use and ownership of the lands and imber. These laws will give free play to industrial enterprise, and the commercial development which will surely follow will afford to the people of the islands the best proofs of the sincerity of our desire to sid them."

The construction of a Pacific cable is also urged, either that the government lay such a cable to connect Hawaii and the Philippines, or that an arrangement be made by which the advantages accuring from a government by contract with a private cable company. This he deems necessary for both, commercial, political and military considerations.

The calls attention to the need of an istimulan canal, and says:

be the simply a step, and a long step, to ward assuring the universal prace of the world by securing the possibility of permanent year. The Mary, the step of the state of the